



School of Engineering - Faculty Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2024

Richard Weeks Hall of Engineering, room 105

Present: T Addy, E K Akdogan, S Alqetrani, J P Antoine, P Balaguru, K Barillas, H Baruh, H Benaroya, S Berg, N Boustany, P Brown, R Brown, H Buettner, D Burbano Lombana, J Cadena, G Callegari, K Cameron, Y Chen, K Cook-Chennault, D Corcoran, A Cuitiño, E De Mauro, V Demetracopoulou, A A Ezzat, J Freeman, Z Gajic, J Gong, X Gu, N Gucunski, W Guo, S Haghani, D Hildebrandt, M Jafari, A Kadam, S Kilduff, B Kim, L Klein, D Knight, A Krishnan, D Kruger, K Labazzo, D Lambropoulos, N Langrana, Y Li, H Lin, C Miller, A Mann, A Mont, L Najafizadeh, H Najm, E Nikolopoulos, T Oathes, A Olarte, D Ozolina, A Pelegri, A Petropulu, M Pierce, R Reagan, I Rosen, C Roth, A Ruiz, A Scacchioli, R Sills, J Singer, R Singh, P Song, W Trappe, M Vazquez, H Wang, R Wang, S Wei, G Weng, G Yang, J Zahn, M Zhu, I Zipkin.

Dean Alberto Cuitiño called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm.

The minutes from the previous faculty meeting on 3/29/24 were approved.

- Dean's Report:
 - Dean Cuitiño welcomed the SoE faculty and staff to the first faculty meeting of the 2024-25 academic year.
 - In 2023-24, the school exceeded \$70m in research expenditures for first time. This success will be recognized along with annual faculty awards in November.
 - The school is seeing great enthusiasm from employers seeking to recruit our students. SoE is working on activities to engage students such as the Verizon Smart Campus competition (soe.rutgers.edu/smart-campus). The school's largest recruiter, Lockheed Martin, will be on campus on September 17th.
 - The SoE Medal of Excellence event will be held on September 26th at the Richard Weeks Hall of Engineering. This year's Medal of Excellence recipient is Michael Haberman (ENG '90). 260 guests are expected to be in attendance.

- Presentation:
 - Dr. Tracie Addy (Director of Rutgers Institute for Teaching, Innovation, and Inclusive Pedagogy (TIIP), <https://teaching.rutgers.edu/>) provided an overview of the newly formed institute and the services it can provide to advance teaching and learning at Rutgers – New Brunswick. Dr. Addy shared a link to a survey soliciting ideas on useful future initiatives that the institute could offer to support engineering teaching (menti.com, code 8517 7373).

- Committee Updates:

- Wade Trappe (ABET): The school's 2024 ABET site visit is scheduled to take place from October 13th – 15th. Department leaders are finalizing schedules with their respective program evaluators (PEVs). Faculty are requested to familiarize themselves with their program's ABET objectives and be available to meet with PEVs, if requested.
 - Peng Song (undergraduate academics): The school had 826 students graduating with the BS degree in academic year 2023-24. Job placement data show 91% of graduates employed, with a median salary of \$78k. At the time of meeting, fall 2024 enrollment stands at 1140 freshmen (compared to 1055 in fall 2023). The incoming class has a mean SAT score of 1412, representing a 46-point increase over fall 2023. Enrollment numbers also show an increase in out-of-state students from below 5% to over 10%.
 - The university is undergoing integration of honors programs with discussions currently at the committee stage. Dean Antoine is representing the School of Engineering, with modifications to the honors programs expected to begin in fall 2025.
 - The new 1st year engineering course 14:440:101 *Introduction to Data-Driven Design for Engineering Applications* began this semester with freshmen spread across 27 sections. Katie Barillas is the new director for this program and will be assisted by staff members Richard Brown and Ashley Mont.
 - Ilene Rosen (undergraduate academics): The school successfully certified all 2024 degree recipients, registered the incoming freshmen, hosted five summer programs, organized fall semester kick-off events aimed at building a sense of community among students. The school has hired Iris Zipkin as Assistant Dean and Director of Advising.
- Department Chairs
 - Assimina Pelegri (MAE): Several new faculty, part-time lecturers, and a new undergraduate program coordinator have been hired. New research grants for projects led by Prof's Guo, Demokritou, Singer, and Bagchi.
 - Yingying Chen (ECE): Bokyoung Kim and Minning Zhu have been hired as new faculty. Ten new research awards have been made to the department. Prof. Dana is coordinating Rutgers Robotics Workshop on September 27th.
 - Mohsen Jafari (ISE): The ISE department received new grants from the NSF and DoE. The department notes an increase in undergraduate student enrollment.
 - Helen Buettner (CBE): Shishir Chundawat is leading a Rutgers team on a large project funded by Schmitt Sciences. The department is developing experiential learning labs for students aimed at expanding hands-on skill development.
 - Lisa Klein (MSE): The department received new research grants for projects led by Ashutosh Goel, Richard Riman, and Dunbar Birnie. Two innovation awards were made to MSE faculty members.



- Nenad Gucunski (CEE): : The Environmental Engineering program will participate in a federal initiative to fortify New Jersey's coast against climate change and extreme weather events.
- Charlie Roth (BME): Anu Kadam has joined BME as the department administrator. Research awards include a NIH MIRA award to Val Tutwiler. Maribel Vazquez received the university's Cheryl Wall faculty fellowship.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Pierce

Secretary, Engineering Faculty